

Murder Clues To Cash In On \$100,000

The Mirror today matched the criminal freedom of 20 Los Angeles murderers with \$100,000 in rewards.

It will pay \$5000 cash for evidence leading to convictions in 20 unsolved murders committed in Los Angeles county up to May 1, 1949.

The no-strings offer, another Mirror crusade, is now open on the notorious Black Dahlia murder of 1947, Murder Mystery No. 1.

Someone still knows who killed Black Dahlia Elizabeth Short.

Someone still knows who strangled heiress Georgette Bauerdorf in her luxurious apartment five years ago—Murder Mystery No. 2.

Monday the Bauerdorf murder story will be told in The Mirror.

Thereafter—until July 13, 1949—\$5000 cash will be paid for the shred of evidence leading to conviction of the 20-year-old girl's slayer.

This is the Citizen Witness Plan—a crusade for, not

against, Los Angeles county and city officials.

As several persons pointed out today in congratulating The Mirror on its \$100,000 offer, simple human-interest methods often

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MURDER MYSTERY NO 2: GEORGETTE BAUERDORF

Murder Mystery No. 2 in the \$100,000 reward series will be outlined Monday in The Mirror.

It relates all the known facts in the unsolved strangle murder of pretty Georgette Bauerdorf, 20-year-old oil heiress whose semi-nude body was found in her luxurious apartment off Sunset Strip in October, 1944.

There is a cash reward of \$5000 on each case—and on 18 others still to be selected.

Think back over unsolved murders in Los Angeles county which aroused your curiosity as reported in the newspapers.

Send your recommendations for cases to be included to Citizen Witness Plan, The Mirror, 145 S. Spring St., Los Angeles.

OFFICIALS LAUD MIRROR'S PLAN

High ranking officials congratulated The Mirror today on its crusade for action in 20 unsolved murders through its Citizen Witness Plan offering \$100,000 in rewards.

Typical of telegrams and letters to The Mirror was the statement of Sheriff Eugene Biscailuz who said:

"One new clue often can link a chain of evidence that will trap a murderer.

"I welcome The Mirror's new plan as a means of encouraging all persons to fulfill their responsibilities and duties as citizens.

"Our department always welcomes evidence pertaining to a crime regardless of how long ago it was committed. The Mirror's effort forcefully focuses public attention on the vital importance of evidence someone has."

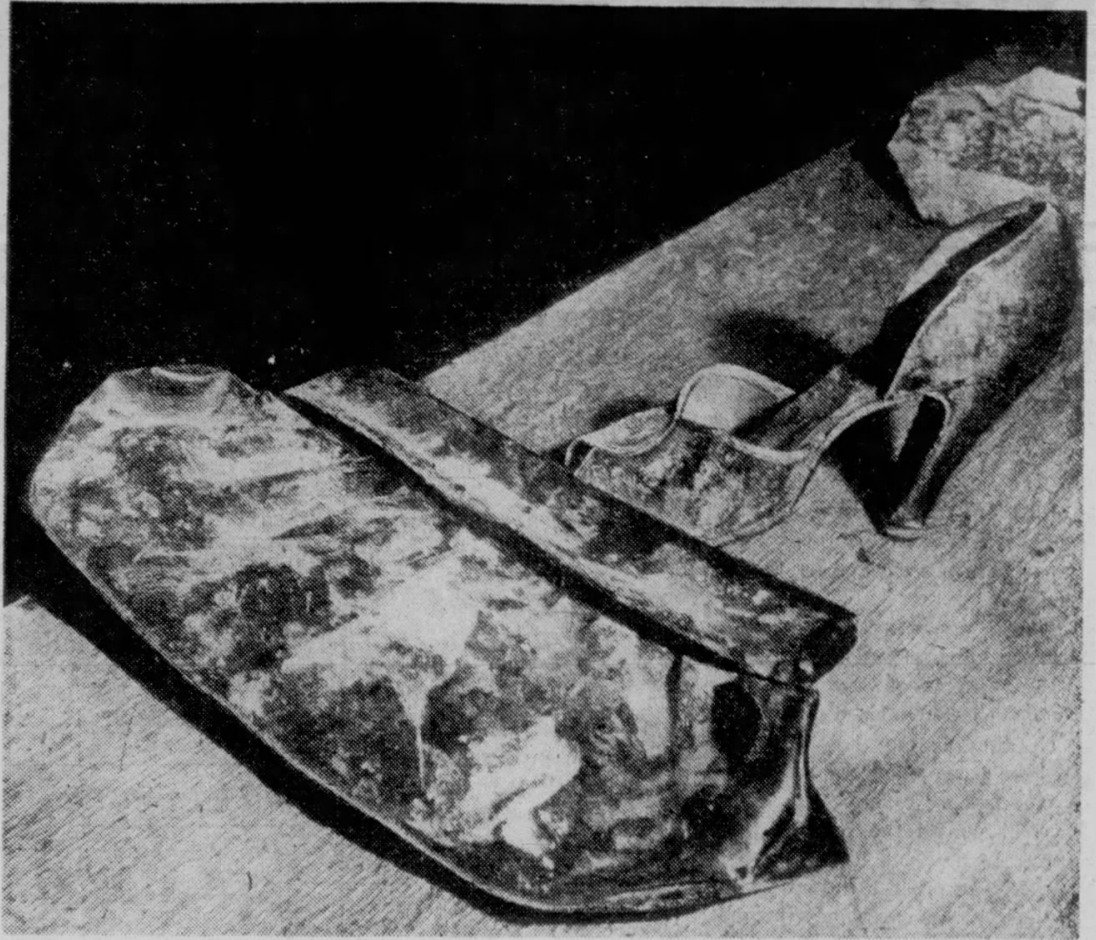
Other messages read: Superior Judge Charles W. Fricke:

"The Mirror's offer should induce citizens to report what information they have.

"A tiny bit of apparently unimportant information may be the

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SOMEONE KNOWS!



DO YOU KNOW WHO LEFT THESE CLUES?

BURIED SECRETS---

'Five Blank Days' Key To Black Dahlia Murder

(Today The Mirror concludes Murder Mystery No. 1, the story of the Black Dahlia slaying. It is the first of a series on unsolved Los Angeles murders published in the hope that secret clues will be revealed and killers brought to justice.—Ed.)

By HERB STINSON

First solid lead in the torture slaying of Elizabeth Short, exotic Black Dahlia, came from a mother and daughter with whom the girl had lived briefly in Pacific Beach near San Diego.

They said Elizabeth had left there Jan. 8 in a car driven by a redhaired, blue-eyed man she had referred to as 'Bob.'

A broadcast went out at once for the red-haired man, while police continued to delve into the life of the Black Dahlia.

Her father, a refrigerator engineer, was located in Los Angeles. He told officers he had not come forward before because he had put the girl out of his life years previously.

"She lived with me when she first came to California," he said. "But she ran around

instead of keeping house for me. So I told her to leave."

The trail led to the army's Camp Cooke near Santa Barbara. Elizabeth had clerked in the post exchange there at the time of her delinquency arrest. The PX manager described her as a "shy girl who never dated soldiers."

Other informants gave a somewhat differing picture. She and an army sergeant, they said, had lived off the post as man and wife.

They added that the sergeant reportedly had threatened her life, and that she had gone to his commanding officer and succeeded in having the man transferred overseas.

In the summer of 1946 Elizabeth appeared in Long Beach, staying in a hotel there during July and part of August. Acquaintances said during this time she went around with a "very jealous" army lieutenant, but also dated sailors.

Traced to Hollywood

She was next traced to Hollywood where for two months in early fall she roomed at 6024 Carlos Ave., and became friendly with another roomer, 24-year-old screen actress Ann Toth.

The girl went with several men during the period, Miss Toth said, but never introduced them to others at the house.

From Nov. 13 to Dec. 5 Elizabeth Short shared a Hollywood apartment at 1842 N. Cherokee St. with half a dozen other girls. From those girls came the last and clearest picture of her Hollywood life.

"She loved to prowls the boulevard after dark," one said.

"Every night," said another, "she dated a different man. But she didn't seem happy. It was

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A MURDERER MAILED THIS LETTER

THE MIRROR—LOS ANGELES, SAT., MAY 14, 1949 * 3

HERE IS HOW THE LAST
PAGE OF YOUR CLUE LETTER
TO THE MIRROR SHOULD
LOOK. THIS SIMPLE CODE
WILL KEEP SECRET THE
IDENTITY OF CITIZEN
WITNESSES WHO HELP SOLVE
L.A. COUNTY MURDERS.

AK 7652

AK 7652

This simple but foolproof code system assures complete secrecy for Mirror readers who furnish clues to L.A.'s unsolved murders. Do not sign the last page of your letter. Choose any two letters of the alphabet and any four numbers. Write them on the last page in two places as illustrated and then tear off the code number in the corner and keep it. Mail letter to Postoffice Box 1313, Los Angeles. Detailed explanation on this page.

Citizen Witness Plan Guarantees Secrecy

Complete secrecy today shrouded the authors of letters to The Mirror offering the police help in solving the notorious Black Dahlia murder under the Citizen Witness Plan.

If you, too, have information that might qualify for a \$5000 Mirror reward in the baffling case, follow the simple 15-point method outlined below.

Your identity—and how you came to know what you know—can remain your secret if you will:—

1. Write down all you know about the crime, giving names, dates, times.
2. Use plain paper.
3. Typewrite, or else print by hand—use no handwriting.
4. Do not sign your information.
5. Pick out any two letters of the alphabet and any four figures.
6. Write this code (Example: AX1856) at the bottom of your information sheet in the center of the page. (See illustration).
7. Tear off a small corner of the page in a jagged line.
8. On this piece you have torn off, write again the same code letters and numbers you have written on the letter.
9. Keep the torn bit safe somewhere. Its code letters and numbers must match those on your information sheet; its torn edge matches the missing corner of your sheet.
10. Mail your letter to P. O. Box 1313, Los Angeles 53. Nothing will be paid for information phoned in.
11. If you have information on more than one murder in

the series, write separate information sheets on each one.

12. All letters on the 20 murders selected must be postmarked before midnight July 13, 1949, to qualify for a reward.
13. In case of duplicate information the reward will be paid to the person whose information is received first.
14. To collect, you or your agent need only present the "code corner" of your letter to The Mirror city editor after the code signature has been published in The Mirror.
15. Read The Mirror daily for fact outlines on the 20 unsolved murders.

Police Interview New Witness in Taxicab Slaying

Long Beach police revealed today they have interviewed a witness with "new and important" evidence in the unsolved 1943 Reeves taxicab murder.

Police said information given them by the mystery witness, an acquaintance of the slain man, promised to clear up the baffling shooting.

Richard Reeves, Long Beach cab driver, was killed by a .38 caliber bullet as he stopped his cab for a traffic light at 7th St. and Hathaway Ave. May 29, 1943.

Police said The Mirror's Citizen Witness Plan of rewards had stimulated popular interest in the Reeves slaying, although no reward has yet been posted on it.

'Five Blank Days' Dahlia Murder Key

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like something was driving her on and on."

The hunt for the redhaired man went on, and other bits of information that might or might not be clues filtered in.

A man with "dirty blond hair" had tried unsuccessfully at two southwest area motels to rent a room with a bathtub the night before the body was found.

Wrist Watch Found

A military wrist watch was found in the weeds 200 feet from where the body had been discovered.

A "thin man," middle-aged and furtive, had been seen loitering near that spot the night of the killing.

The case was slowing to a crawl when the redhaired man at last was located.

He was Robert Manley, 25, South Gate salesman. He told a straightforward if somewhat sheepish story of having met and dated Elizabeth Short in San Diego during December at a time when he was having domestic spats.

Yes, he told detectives, he had picked Elizabeth up at the San Diego home Jan. 8. They spent the night at a motel and he then drove her to Los Angeles, dropping her at the Biltmore hotel on the evening of Jan. 9 after she had checked her baggage at a bus depot.

When he left her, he said, she was wearing a black collarless suit, white fluffy blouse, black suede shoes, nylons, and full-length beige coat, and was carrying a black plastic handbag with two handles.

He had not seen her after that. His alibi was checked. He was freed.

The Deep Mystery

Elimination of the redhaired man left the investigators faced with the deepest mystery of the case, one which is still unsolved but which, they are convinced, hides the answer to the whole grisly affair.

It is the mystery of the five blank days.

Where was the Black Dahlia from the evening of Jan. 9, when she stepped from Manley's car at the Biltmore, until the night of Jan. 14 when she died? With whom did she spend that fateful 120 hours? Did she remain with that person willingly or unwillingly?

Manley had told officers the girl spoke of fearing a "jealous Italian" in San Diego. On the theory that the man might have trailed her to Los Angeles and abducted her the evening of Jan. 9, officers checked widely in San Diego. No such man was located.

Hunt for leads in Hollywood and elsewhere was intensified. Many tips came in, some of which might have been authentic but were never proved so.

A waitress reported she had seen the Black Dahlia and a man in Pacific Beach the evening of Jan. 14. A grocery clerk said he had seen her in Los Angeles with a man at 10 a.m. that same day.

A bus driver said he picked her up alone at Santa Barbara at 1 a.m. Jan. 14 and that she rode to Los Angeles.

The tips led nowhere.

On Jan. 25 the egomaniac killer, apparently feeling interest in the case was waning for lack of action, made two moves.

He mailed a bulky envelope, addressing it in letters clipped from publications, to: "Los Angeles newspapers—Here is Dahlia's belongings. Letter to follow."

The envelope contained snap-

HAVE changed my mind;
you would not give me a
square Deal. Dahlia killing
was justified.

THIS KILLER IS AT LARGE

shots, Elizabeth's social security card, the bus depot baggage check and an address book. Salesman Manley told police he had seen the check and address book in the Black Dahlia's handbag before he left her.

At about the same time the slayer tossed the handbag and one of the girl's shoes in a restaurant trash can at 1136 Crenshaw Blvd., two miles from where the body was found.

Police anxiously awaited the promised letter, meanwhile begin-

ning a check of each of 75 persons named in the address book. None could be connected with the killing.

Instead of a letter there came a penny postcard, bearing more words and phrases clipped from newspapers. The message read:

"Here it is. Turning in Wed., Jan. 29, at 10 a.m. Had my fun at cops. B. D. Avenger."

Scores of communications had been received during the case, but most had been dismissed as the work of cranks. The postcard, police sensed from long experience with criminals, was from the killer.

The Hour Passes

They waited tensely for 10 a.m., Jan. 29. The hour came and went, but the slayer of the Black Dahlia did not appear to surrender.

The following day another postcard arrived. It read, "Have changed my mind. You would not give me a square deal. Dahlia killing was justified."

With that the Black Dahlia murderer faded finally into anonymity, and police could only go ahead doggedly with the weary task of checking, checking and re-checking.

Evidence was dug up seemingly connecting the Black Dahlia with a Hollywood lewd photo syndicate. The evidence, like all other leads, proved to have no bearing on her murder.

The investigation came to a final dead end.

Ever since the killer has seemingly been safe behind the curtain of the five blank days.

But somewhere, police are convinced, is the man or woman who can rip that curtain away and bring to justice one of the most fiendish murderers in Los Angeles history.

(On Monday The Mirror will publish the story of the Georgette Bauerdorf slaying as Murder Mystery No. 2 in the \$100,000 Citizen Witness plan.)

Reward Bid Aids Justice, Officials Say

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work in solving murders when cold police science fails.

15-Point Method

For instructions on just how to cooperate with police in solving any of the 20 murders and claiming a \$5000 reward, read the simple method outlined in an adjoining column in today's Mirror.

Who killed the Black Dahlia? Murder Mystery No. 1.
Who killed Georgette Bauerdorf? Murder Mystery No. 2.

You and other readers will select Mystery No. 3. Write The Citizen Witness Plan, The Mirror, 145 S. Spring St., Los Angeles. Murders upon which rewards of \$5000 will be paid are selected from recommendations of our readers.

Both Mystery No. 1 and Mystery No. 2 are so called "big murders."

But there is no such thing as a "little murder."

Each Slaying a Threat

Each unsolved slaying is a threat against the men, women and children of Los Angeles county.

The threat exists as long as those who know the slayer, or who have innocently overlooked some detail of the slaying they witnessed, keep their silence.

The Citizen Witness Plan is designed to break the silence by a simple, human appeal to the citizen's sense of responsibility.

He can tell what he knows without revealing a single fact about himself—name, address, age, or relationship to the victim.

But his information must be a definite clue. Don't write guesses or theories. There is \$100,000 at stake.

Who killed a girl named Elizabeth Short?

Who killed Georgette Bauer-

60 GLADS \$1
Last Call For 1949

Be sure to send for your big rainbow gladiolus assortment today as offer will not be repeated. 60 Blooming size long stemmed beauties, all colors, delivered postpaid for \$1, 120 bulbs \$2, 180 bulbs \$2.75. Safe arrival and satisfaction guaranteed. You still have time if you order today.

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